If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.

from the "Conclusion" to Walden

Simplicity, simplicity, simplicity!  
from the chapter "Where I Lived and What I Lived For" in Walden

To be awake is to be alive.  
from the chapter "Where I Lived and What I Lived For" in Walden

I learned this, at least, by my experiment;  
that if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours.  
from the "Conclusion" to Walden

If you have built castles in the air,  
your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them.  
from the "Conclusion" to Walden

I would rather sit on a pumpkin and have it all to myself,than be crowded on a velvet cushion.  
from the chapter "Economy" in Walden

Let us first be as simple and well as Nature ourselves, dispel the clouds which hang over our brows, and take up a little life into our pores. Do not stay to be an overseer of the poor, but endeavor to become one of the worthies of the world.  
from the chapter "Economy" in Walden

However mean your life is, meet it and live it;  
do not shun it and call it hard names.  
from the "Conclusion" to Walden

Say what you have to say, not what you ought. Any truth is better than make-believe.  
from the "Conclusion" to Walden

I HEARTILY ACCEPT the motto, 'That government is best which governs least' (**Thoreau**, Civil Disobedience)

How does it become a man to behave toward this American government today? I answer, that he cannot without disgrace be associated with it. I cannot for an instant recognize that political organization as my government which is the slave's government also. (**Henry David Thoreau**, Civil Disobedience)